

6/21/69

Dear Gary,

Your letter of the 18th, postmarked 19, arrived today. Those things you said you'd send separately of which I have not acknowledged have not.

As soon as I finish this I'll compare your COUP suggestions with the finished copy (of that part). I've done 10,000-15,000 words of the add. The problem now is that we just cannot make any except absolutely required changes, especially if they'll alter paging.

Your enclosed letters: Paul will not have a friendly feeling for Penn and his dislike will be warranted, for Penn has transcended simple political dislike for Hunt and has, from early, said essentially what Farewell does.

Before you go to Dallas, let me know in time to give you some suggested dos and don'ts. Particularly, I think, must some of those with whom I have had a relationship be left alone for a number of reasons. If you plan to approach any, let me know first.

They are some areas in which Paul may feel he can help you and may want to. Others he will not (for example, tough tangle with police). These are some into which I think he'll help and I'd like done: arrests (including those held without charges then released) and extremists (there are those of the right he so regards). Known threats vs JFK (esp Denton, where the Republican Youth involvement may present some hurdles). Butler (now in charge jail, or at least last November). Revill (for whom he has high regard-in Nov with State, Austin) who must know and suspect more, and I am reasonably certain he was right on Hosty - and what he may suspect. But Austin may be impossible for you. Eddie Brawner (if you can get Bay Pigs wire to him and story behind it). The Rogerses (I'd do preliminaries if you want to speak to them-Sylvia-Connell-Machann- and I'll write you also). Tell me your time and plans and I'll make suggestions if you'd like.

Vince letter 4/29: I am unwilling to assume deliberate dishonesty on his part and do not. Some of those things in error in his letter may be explained as simple misunderstanding. Others I do not so believe and offer no explanation. Vince and I went there together in December, meeting on the plane the 4th. I also talked Bud into going, for I wanted him to know where things stood. I had three months earlier agreed to spend the first two weeks of December in N.O. working with Bud, at his expenses, entirely independently (for example, he said he'd prefer I stay at a motel with him rather than with friends at no cost).. Therefore, any expenses I mentioned to Vince on this trip and Louis confirmed were incurred prior to that trip. You know the results of that trip. Those expenses for which I am asking prompt(?) return are those of that trip and a consequence of it. Now Vince, without consulting me (although I would have agreed if he had) made a deal whereby I would work fulltime trying to help them get ready for the trial. It is specific that I'd get my expenses and more, a salary, pay for the work. He does not acknowledge this, I believe, because if he did he'd recognize his own moral obligation to meet what he committed and was not delivered on. He communicated it to me, as I recall, when we were driving with Moo to Moo's home for dinner (was it big and good!). I here, as I have in all mention of this, distinguish between those costs incurred as a direct consequence of Vince's arrangements and those incurred earlier. On those earlier, there is no doubt Lou made clear to me in advance that it would be some time before he could repay me. He pointed out that when I stayed at the motel they had not yet paid that bill (which I hadn't known).

Vince probably does really think I invited myself on that trip. I never

let him know I was using him because I knew Garrison would blindly oppose whatever I said. However, I was in touch with others throughout and it is quite the opposite of my being not welcomed by the staff. They didn't want me to leave and I did nothing in advance without consultation once I detected what I had. After the second day, they were sicker every day Vince was there. They finally hustled him out of town, really. No one not there will ever believe any account of what Vince said, did and looked like. I assume full responsibility, for while I never anticipated the degree, I did, essentially. My reasoning was simple) this is not really related to the error in fact in Vince's letter): it takes a paranoic to reach a paranoic, and this was the most important single hurdle that had to be surmounted. Whatever the consequence, it was vital and there was no alternative.

I suspect that it was on the way down I asked him to speak to Jim about the money of the past. There was no purpose served in his speaking to Lou, who does only what Jim says and who likes me as I suspect he does not Vince. I may be wrong, but I feel that I am the only one of the "critics" the public men like.

Now on the joint trip: when I told Vince Bud was not coming through with the expenses and had no way of paying my own fare, he did. I regret the agent wrote the wrong kind of ticket and more deeply regret Vince's boorishness over it and the way in which he embarrassed me over it, really insulting me over my poverty (whereas I felt the only reason I was incurring these to-me great expenses is because he and all others had abdicated). I believe that is all he paid. The only meals I had Matt provided save one: Bud took me out to a splendid one one night. I paid all the others, like airport parking, etc.

On the question of expenses for the things I was asked to do there is no question. I was assured and when I left N.O. for the last time it is one of the stipulated prerequisites for my return. When, after the joint trip, this was not being done I phoned Vince and asked him to remind them. When he later said I should be there I told him explicitly why I wasn't.

I can see how he may honestly have misinterpreted what I asked him to do with Maggie. I was in a delicate position, for I was also addressing myself to him and Bud and others. What I said was that I could not possibly stay there. If the others wanted me there, they'd have to make it possible. I felt I could not say "you included". I did not ask that I be kept there. I did say that without the wherewithall I could not remain, that if others did not make it possible I could not for I would no go further into debt when others who were able to be there were not and did not substitute for their presence.

It is absolutely evil for him to say I have "made the assassination" my "business in more ways than one". I think, to you, it requires nothing further. If the course he refers to has to do with N.O. after 12/4/68, his statement is a total falsehood that cannot be accidental. If it relates to his general insult, he is also less than precise, for he has been on both sides of that, sometimes actually trying to persuade me to drop it.

In no sense can he honestly say I have tried to use him as a collection agency. I have asked him to make his own word good, no more. I have asked him to help on those expenses for which he is responsible, no others. And this definitely includes my return to N.O. in January. It is indecent for him to suggest, with this history, that I am trying to use him for any kind of patsy. It is I who got screwed for trusting him. I believe Bud was still there for part of it. The result is clear: Vince bigshot. He played God, which he loves in N.O. and overdid ever for God, and I pay. And worse, Lil. He is your friend and that I would not intrude upon. I do promise you that if you have the disposition you can see for

yourself the eraly things he did. You may find them hard to believe. It is so bad we have to concern ourselves with such matters. But as you know, I do not permit a false record to be unchallenged.

Navy regulations: come to think of it, my request is also unanswered.

Sirhan tests: how about the people who devised the tests asking?

Maggie and Bill do surprise me. It is still possible they do not recall the nature of their plea to me. And it did work. I did, despite all the things that went wrong, accomplish what they sought. Twice! To the best of my knowledge, he hasn't opened his yap since what I did, if less well than I should, on the Crane show. And I kept pouring it on all the time I was there, in every possible way. If he has said a single word on anything since I have not been informed. In Ray's case it could be his special kind of ego. He is brilliant. I do not think he is intentionally dishonest.

I think it may have been embarrassing to Paul H for you to have sent him a copy of that letter. He would, I think, want to keep out and so far as I know was not in. If these slanders have effected him, I have no sign of it. He is a very wise young man. On Hal, I concur in your feelings and judgement. I suppose I am a little curious about what you said, but if I were to see the letter, it would not be for that reason but to be confident in those interpretations you made, that they are not enlargements, etc. Hal's recent silences indicates they have, at least in part, succeeded with him, and I'm disappointed.

Olson: I think it would be a good idea if you could get one not known in the Archives to request copies al all correspondence with him, files, etc. I think possibly neither he nor you nor I should do it. If I did it and they replied, it would be months. I have had no responses to any of the letters to which you do not have copies of the responses.

Westcoast motives. Your explanation is reasonable.

I'd likemto be encouraged at the initial liberal resistance to Hoover. It is important and has accomplished much. I think they'll poop out now.
Hope not.

The usualx apologies for the usual typos.

Sincerely,